

Economic Development & Improvement Commission
Regular Meeting – Thursday February 11, 2010 – 12:00 Noon
Town Manager's Conference Room, First Floor, Town Hall

MINUTES

1. Call To Order – Chairman Greenblatt called the meeting to order at 12:01 p. m.
2. Attendance and Quorum (6 members required)

Members in attendance: Chair Howard Greenblatt, Rick Willard, Jonah Evenson, Betty Rosania, Bill Knapp, Betty Standish, Joan Hughes, Doug Sacks, Jay Amoruso, Dorcas McHugh, John Adamian and Ken Rizzio.

Members absent: Rene Ortega, Chris Lyons and Brian Silver.

Also in attendance: Jeff Bridges – Town Manager; Stathis Manousos – Town Council Liaison; Phil Knecht – Planning and Zoning Commission Liaison; Ellyn Laramie - Chamber of Commerce; Peter Gillespie – Economic Development Manager/Town Planner and Denise Bradley – Assistant Planner.

3. Old Business

- a. Farmer's Market – Doug Sacks spoke about possible locations for a winter market next season. He also noted that an application has been submitted to the Planning and Zoning Commission for renewal.
- b. Business Visitation Program – Peter Gillespie reported that he has not received any completed business visitation forms in quite a while and Howard Greenblatt reiterated the importance of this effort.
- c. Wethersfield Shops Local – Peter Gillespie discussed some of the highlights from the February 25th Workshop and noted that a follow-up meeting has been scheduled for March 9th at 8:00 a. m. The Marketing Sub-Committee will meet to discuss details.
- d. Façade Improvement Applications – Ken Rizzio reported on the January 15th Financial Strategies Sub-Committee. He noted that there are currently 2 applications pending and that additional information from the applicant has been requested.

4. New Business

- a. Vacant Property Updates – Peter Gillespie updated the EDIC on the status on several properties including Comstock Ferre, Northeast Utilities, Fun Zone and Weight Watchers.
- b. CIP Budget 2010/2011 – Peter Gillespie noted that Les Cole and Tony Martino would be making the CIP Budget presentation to the Planning and Zoning Commission on March 2nd.

- c. Budget – Peter Gillespie reported that the proposed budget was submitted last week and that he has requested funding for all EDIC programs comparable to last year’s levels.
- d. Future Breakfast Meeting Topics and Dates – A brief discussion ensued regarding setting up a March or April meeting. The idea of “Talk to your legislature” was offered as a possible topic.
- 5. Reports - Town Manager's Report – Jeff Bridges reported on the progress of the Alta Lash interviews in Old Wethersfield.

Town Council Liaison's Report –Chairman Greenblatt welcomed the Town Council’s new EDIC liaison, Stathis Manousos.

Planning & Zoning Commission Liaison's Report – Phil Knecht discussed highlights from the February 2nd meeting.

Tourism Commission Liaison’s Report – No report was given.

Redevelopment Agency Liaison Report – No report was given.

Chamber of Commerce Liaison’s Report – Ellyn Laramie reported on the “Welcome Wagon” and “Shadow” Programs.

Director of Planning and Economic Development's Report – Peter Gillespie reported on the highlights of the Monthly Economic Development Report.

- 6. Chairman's Report – Howard Greenblatt noted that the 2nd Green Summit is scheduled for tonight at 7:00 p. m.
- 7. Sub-Committee Reports - Marketing and Communications – Nothing additional to report.
Financial Strategies – Nothing additional to report.
- 8. Minutes- December 2009 Meeting – Rick Willard made a motion to approve the December 10, 2009 meeting minutes. Joan Hughes seconded the motion and all voted in favor.
- 9. Next Meeting – March 11, 2009
- 10. Correspondence - There was no correspondence.
- 11. Adjournment – Ken Rizzio made a motion to adjourn at 1:34 p. m. John Adamian seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Bradley
Assistant Planner